

OAK FOREST VEGETATION COMMUNITY



Oak Forest Vegetation represents a community with specific characteristics that may be found near or blending in with other forest vegetation. It is meant to describe a true forest of *substantial trees growing in a manner that produces a closed canopy of tree cover*. It is characterized by Coast live oak, California black oak, and Canyon live oak that is sometimes called Gold cup oak. In many locations, these species grow into massive trees that are hundreds of years old.

This community is found adjacent to and intergrades with Coniferous Forest and Oak Woodland vegetation. The primary locations for Oak Forest are the northern end of Palomar Mountain, the slopes and canyons on Hot Springs Mountain, and parts of the Cuyamaca and Laguna Mountain ranges.

Inhabitants of Oak Forest include Acorn woodpeckers, Western bluebirds, Plain titmouse and Mountain chickadees. Western gray squirrels and Merriam chipmunks are also known to inhabit these forests, as well as Southern mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, and Mountain lions.



Courtesy of the County of San Diego
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